

Potato stocks



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TOTAL POTATO STOCKS UP 21 PERCENT

Stocks of Irish potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record 161.7 million cwt. on January 1, 1975, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 28.1 million cwt. (21 percent) more than the 133.6 million cwt. on hand January 1, 1974.

Stocks in the eight eastern States on January 1, 1975 totaled 36.2 million cwt., 43 percent more than the 25.3 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Maine potatoes being marketed during December had a substantially higher percentage that failed to meet U. S. No. 1 standards than a year ago and average, primarily as a result of bruising and frost damage during harvest. Cull-out of supplies is also above normal as a result of frost damage in some areas of Upstate New York and Pennsylvania.

For the eight central States, January 1, 1975 potato stocks of 35.1 million cwt. were 25 percent above the 28.0 million cwt. a year earlier. Quality of potatoes in Wisconsin, Ohio and the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota is highly variable. Heavy sunburn and frost damage are major factors contributing to the above average shrink and loss occurring in some storages. Where damage has been severe, some bins have been dumped or sold as livestock feed.

Stocks in the eight western States totaled 90.5 million cwt., 13 percent above the 80.3 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. In most areas, potatoes went into storage in good condition and quality of remaining stocks in storage is average or better.

Disappearance from the 1974 fall crop to January 1, 1975 totaled 122.8 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), 2 percent more than the 120.3 million cwt. moved in the comparable period a year earlier.

The accumulated quantity of potatoes processed in seven major States to January 1, 1975 from the 1974 crop totaled 49.4 million cwt., an increase of 3 percent from the 48.1 million cwt. processed for the comparable period a year earlier. However, the quantity processed during December was only 7.6 million cwt., compared to 10.3 million cwt. for December 1973.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production, with losses due to shrink accounting for most of the remaining 10 percent. Although more than usual storage losses are expected this season due to lower quality of potatoes entering storage in some areas, no attempt is made at this date to estimate potential losses to current storage stocks.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1, TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1964 - 74 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS				
		FOLLOWING YEAR				
		DECEMBER 1	JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 1	APRIL 1
1,000 CWT.						
1964	174,491	114,550	94,205	73,120	54,535	
1965	216,749	147,780	124,170	98,670	74,905	
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632	
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405	
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	239,460	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780	
1971 1/	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480	
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305	2/ 58,185
1973 3/	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150	55,865
1974	287,710	187,385	161,725			

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971 LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

3/ REVISED AUGUST 1974 POT 6 (74).

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING, 1/ SEVEN STATES, 1973 AND 1974 CROPS

STATE AND AREA	FROM 1973 CROP			FROM 1974 CROP
	ENTIRE SEASON	TO JANUARY 1, 1974		TO JANUARY 1, 1975
		1,000 CWT.		
1,000 CWT.				
MAINE	7,288		4,339	3,823
IDAHO AND				
MALHEUR CO., OREGON	55,506		23,005	23,803
WASHINGTON AND OTHER				
AREAS, OREGON	30,140		15,726	16,815
OTHER STATES 2/	9,937		5,026	4,918
SEVEN STATE TOTAL	102,871		48,096	49,359

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OR SEASON IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE AND MICHIGAN.

2/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY
GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JAN 1, 1974
AND JAN. 1, 1975 1/

STATE	CROP OF 1973		CROP OF 1974	
	PRODUCTION	STOCKS : JAN 1, 1974	PRODUCTION	STOCKS : JAN. 1, 1975
1,000 CWT.				
CALIF	6,253	2,850	6,324	3,150
CCLO	8,235	4,550	8,840	5,050
CONN	572	<u>2/</u>	598	235
IDAHO	78,965	49,000	80,045	51,000
INE	1,238	130	1,272	95
MAINE	28,770	18,500	36,400	26,500
MASS	592	<u>2/</u>	800	300
MICH	7,520	3,300	8,330	3,400
MINN	13,120	7,900	15,300	10,500
MONT	1,462	1,350	1,750	1,450
NEBR	1,012	550	1,152	600
NEV	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	3,188	<u>3/</u>
N H	<u>102</u>	<u>2/</u>	144	65
N Y - LONG ISLAND	5,375	1,500	6,750	2,100
- UPSTATE	6,670	2,400	7,236	3,500
N DAK	19,140	10,600	22,950	13,800
OHIO	1,800	550	1,995	570
OREG	15,929	5,850	17,482	7,600
PA	6,300	2,450	7,360	3,350
R I	796	<u>4/</u>	1,034	<u>4/</u>
S DAK	770	350	371	300
UTAH	1,100	580	1,481	780
VT	150	<u>2/</u>	220	110
WASH	35,260	15,600	41,160	20,500
WIS	11,515	4,600	14,000	5,800
WYO	1,220	530	1,528	970
OTHER STATES	--	445	--	--
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	253,866	133,585	287,710	161,725

1/ TOTAL STOCKS CONSIST OF "PRODUCTION LESS TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE TO DATE."

2/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN "OTHER STATES" TOTAL.

3/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

4/ R I STOCKS INCLUDED IN CONN.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
 Minnesota and North Dakota (Red River Valley)

Quality information contained in this report is based on a potato stocks survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. There were 175 samples selected on a random basis that were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Reports will be issued during the 1974-75 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potatoes removed from storage.

This report does not contain information by variety on changes in quality (U.S. Grade) or on weight loss of potatoes removed from storage by January 1, 1975. Too few samples were recovered by this time to establish valid indications or averages by variety. Out of 175 samples placed in storage in the Red River Valley, only 15 had been recovered to that date. Recovered samples showed a high degree of variability and ranged from 98 percent U.S. No. 1 (including B's) to 100 percent culls.

However, the 15 samples recovered before January 1, 1975 in the aggregate showed a pronounced decline in quality. All varieties combined averaged 70 percent U.S. No. 1 (including B's), 8 percent less than at harvest. Culls for all varieties averaged 21 percent compared with 11 percent at the time of harvest. In addition, total deterioration and physiological changes in potatoes (weight loss) while in storage is now indicated at 7 percent.

Averages for potatoes shipped to January 1, 1974 are shown for the last year's crop. Thus, comparisons relating to change in grade from January to final can be made for the 1973 crop. In interpreting current survey indications consideration should be given to further changes in average grade and weight loss from January 1 to the end of season.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1974-75
 AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES SHIPPED: 1/

VARIETAL:	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S	NO. 2	CULLS	NO. 1 B'S	WEIGHT
TYPE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	2/ STORAGE
- - - - - PERCENT - - - - -					
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1975 3/					
RED :					
WHITE :					
RUSSET :					
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1974					
RED :	94	77	3	12	3
WHITE :	85	71	8	13	7
RUSSET :	84	95	8	4	8
ALL SAMPLES 1973-74 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL					
RED :	93	88	4	6	3
WHITE :	83	76	9	11	8
RUSSET :	83	83	10	8	7
				9	9
				9	2

1/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

2/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGHT LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

3/ DATA FOR 1974-75 SEASON NOT PUBLISHED DUE TO INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES RECOVERED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO JANUARY 1.